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For Immediate Release

Judicial Nominating Commission announces names of nominees to fill 2 vacant judgeships in Franklin County

FRANKFORT, Ky., July 12, 2006 — The Judicial Nominating Commission met today at the State Capitol to choose nominees to fill two judicial vacancies in Franklin County. Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert leads the commission.

Nominees for 48th Judicial District, Division 1

Gov. Fletcher's appointment of Judge Thomas D. Wingate to the 48th Judicial Circuit (Franklin County), Division 2 was effective July 1, 2006. Judge Wingate was named to the position held by Circuit Judge William L. Graham before his June 30, 2006, retirement. Judge Wingate's appointment leaves a vacancy in the 48th Judicial District (Franklin County), Division 1. The Judicial Nominating Commission nominated three individuals to fill this vacancy: Attorneys Christopher W. Broaddus, O. Ray Corns and Kathy R. Mangeot.

Attorney Christopher W. Broaddus. Broaddus earned a bachelor's degree in English from Kentucky State University and a law degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He resides in Frankfort where he is currently a law partner with Ricky E. Sparks and first assistant Franklin County attorney. His practice consists of criminal and traffic prosecution and representing the county in tax collection. His general civil practice concentrates on domestic relations, construction law, bankruptcy and personal injury law.

Attorney O. Ray Corns. Corns is a retired circuit judge. He resides and practices law in Frankfort where he shares a law office with his daughter, Autumn Barber Corns. He has 16 years of civil and criminal practice and he served eight years as commonwealth's attorney for Franklin County. He holds a bachelor's degree from Berea College in Berea, Ky., and a juris doctor from the Cumberland University College of Law of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Attorney Kathy R. Mangeot. Mangeot earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a law degree from the University of Kentucky. She currently practices law with McNamara & Jones. Her legal practice has been primarily in trust and estate planning and estate administration. She has also practiced in the areas of tax, divorce, custody, adoption, small claims and real estate transactions.

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District Court

District Court is a court of limited jurisdiction which hears civil cases involving \$4,000 or less, juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, misdemeanors, cases relating to domestic violence and abuse, guardianships for disabled people, traffic offenses, probate of wills and felony preliminary hearings. The Small Claims Division is part of District Court's jurisdiction and informally handles matters with a value of \$1,500 or less.

Nominees for 48th Judicial Circuit, Division 1

By virtue of Judge Wingate's appointment to Division 2 of the 48th Judicial Circuit, the number of available appointees for the vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Judge Roger L. Crittenden, who retired June 15, 2006, was reduced below the three nominees required by the Kentucky Constitution. The Judicial Nominating Commission was reconvened to consider applicants for an appointment to this vacancy. The Judicial Nominating Commission named three individuals to fill the vacancy in the 49th Judicial Circuit, Division 1: Attorneys James E. Boyd, Rex L. Hunt and Samuel G. McNamara.

Attorney James E. Boyd. Boyd has practiced law for 32 years. His legal career focused on personal injury cases, auto accidents, family law, real estate, criminal defense, probate and environmental law. He served as Franklin County attorney from 1982 to 2005. Boyd earned a juris doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Morehead State University. He resides in Frankfort.

Attorney Rex L. Hunt. Hunt resides and practices law in Frankfort where he serves as assistant county attorney for the Franklin County Attorney's Office and as "of counsel" for McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland. His practice focuses on criminal prosecution, state government litigation and labor law. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kentucky and a juris doctor from the University of Louisville School of Law.

Attorney Samuel G. McNamara. McNamara is a retired attorney residing in Frankfort who practiced law for 40 years. He has been affiliated with McNamara & Jones, McNamara Law Office, Barnett & Alagia, Hazelrigg & Cox and the Kentucky Court of Appeals. His practice included litigation, real estate, mortgage banking and insurance defense. He earned an A.B. degree from Centre College in Danville, Ky., and an L.L.B. degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Circuit Court

Circuit Court is the court of general jurisdiction which hears civil matters involving more than \$4,000, capital offenses and felonies, divorces, adoptions, termination of parental rights, land dispute title cases and contested probate cases. Family Court is a division of Circuit Court.

Kentucky Constitution Addresses Judicial Vacancies

Section 118 of the Constitution of Kentucky imposes on the Governor the duty of appointing an interim judge when a judicial vacancy occurs. Section 118 also mandates that it is the responsibility of the Chief Justice to convene and preside over meetings of a Judicial Nominating Commission to select three qualified applicants from which the Governor must appoint. For circuit judges and district judges, the nominating commissions are local and the members selected from within the judicial circuit or district. A statewide nominating commission is convened to fill vacancies on the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

Judicial Nominating Commission Process

When a judicial vacancy occurs, the executive secretary of the Judicial Nominating Commission sends a notice of vacancy to all attorneys in the judicial circuit or the judicial district affected. Attorneys can recommend someone or nominate themselves. Once that occurs, the individuals interested in the position return a questionnaire to the Office of Chief Justice. The Chief Justice then meets with the Judicial Nominating Commission to choose three nominees.

The names of the applicants are not released. However, once the Judicial Nominating Commission has determined the names of the three finalists to be sent to the governor for selection, the Judicial Branch makes the names available to the public and the media. The credentials of these three nominees are sent to Gov. Ernie Fletcher for review. When the governor appoints the replacement, his office makes the announcement.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is the operational arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice and supports the activities of more than 3,500 court system employees, including the elected offices of justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC provides training and education to the state's judges.

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